

## WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A mask assembly for a color cathode ray tube, the mask assembly including a color selection mask and a mask frame supporting the color selection mask, the color selection mask having the form of a thin metal plate with a plurality of openings for the passage of electron beams, the color selection mask having an effective screen area within which a horizontal screen direction and a vertical screen direction are defined, wherein:

the openings in the effective screen area include slits and columns of slots both extending in the vertical screen direction, the slots extending for a shorter distance than the slits in the vertical screen direction, the slits alternating with the columns of slots in the horizontal screen direction; and

the thin metal plate comprises

metal strips that separate the slits from the columns of slots, thereby bounding the columns of slots,

a plurality of real bridges joining the pair of metal strips bounding each column of slots so as to define boundaries between the slots in the column of slots, and

a plurality of dummy bridges projecting from the metal strips into each of the slits without joining the metal strips.

2. The mask assembly of claim 1, wherein each of the dummy bridges comprises a pair of projections projecting from the pair of metal strips on both sides of one of the slits, the projections facing each other across a gap.

3. The mask assembly of claim 1, wherein the dummy bridges and the real bridges are disposed at substantially identical intervals in the vertical screen direction, and the

positions of the dummy bridges are shifted in the vertical screen direction by substantially half the substantially identical intervals with respect to the positions of the real bridges.

4. The mask assembly of claim 1, wherein the columns of slots have dummy bridges in addition to the real bridges.

5. The mask assembly of claim 5, wherein the real bridges in each column of slots are replaced with dummy bridges at intervals of substantially a constant number of the real bridges in the vertical screen direction.

6. The mask assembly of claim 1, further comprising a vibration damping mechanism for dumping vibration of the color selection mask.

7. The mask assembly of claim 6, wherein the vibration damping mechanism comprises a pair of damper springs and a damper wire, the damper springs being secured to the mask frame, the damper wire being suspended between the pair of damper springs and directly contacting the color selection mask.

8. A cathode ray tube including the mask assembly of claim 1, having a faceplate on an inner surface of which a phosphor screen is formed, the phosphor screen facing the color selection mask in the mask assembly.

9. A mask assembly for a color cathode ray tube, the mask assembly including a color selection mask and a mask frame supporting the color selection mask, the color selection mask having the form of a thin metal plate with a plurality of openings for the passage of electron beams, the color

selection mask having an effective screen area within which a horizontal screen direction and a vertical screen direction are defined, wherein:

the effective screen area comprises a first region and a second region, the first region having slits and columns of slots both extending in the vertical screen direction, the slots extending for a shorter distance than the slits in the vertical screen direction, the slits alternating with the columns of slots in the horizontal screen direction, the second region having columns of slots extending in the vertical screen direction; and

the thin metal plate comprises

metal strips that separate the slits from the columns of slots in the first region, and separate adjacent columns of slots in the second region, thereby bounding the columns of slots in both the first and second regions,

a plurality of real bridges joining the pair of metal strips bounding each column of slots so as to define boundaries between the slots in the column of slots, and

a plurality of dummy bridges projecting from the metal strips into each of the slits without joining the metal strips.

10. The mask assembly of claim 9, wherein the first region occupies the vertically central part of the effective screen area, and the second region is disposed on both sides of the first region in the vertical screen direction.

11. The mask assembly of claim 9, wherein each of the dummy bridges comprises a pair of projections projecting from the pair of metal strips on both sides of one of the slits, the projections facing each other across a gap.

12. The mask assembly of claim 9, wherein the dummy bridges

and the real bridges are disposed at substantially identical intervals in the vertical screen direction, and the positions of the dummy bridges are shifted in the vertical screen direction by substantially half the substantially identical intervals with respect to the positions of the real bridges.

13. The mask assembly of claim 9, wherein the columns of slots have dummy bridges in addition to the real bridges.

14. The mask assembly of claim 13, wherein the real bridges in each column of slots are replaced with dummy bridges at intervals of substantially a constant number of the real bridges in the vertical screen direction.

15. The mask assembly of claim 9, further comprising a vibration damping mechanism for dumping vibration of the color selection mask.

16. The mask assembly of claim 15, wherein the vibration damping mechanism comprises a pair of damper springs and a damper wire, the damper springs being secured to the mask frame, the damper wire being suspended between the pair of damper springs and directly contacting the color selection mask.

17. A cathode ray tube including the mask assembly of claim 9, having a faceplate on an inner surface of which a phosphor screen is formed, the phosphor screen facing the color selection mask in the mask assembly.